

REMARKS

As indicated above, this is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Claims 22 - 26 have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention.

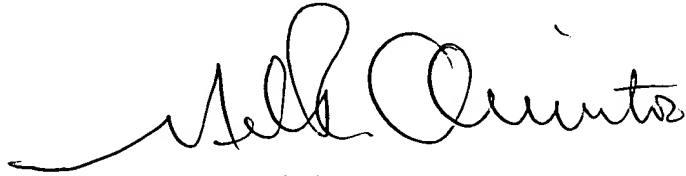
The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

If for any reason, the Examiner feels the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
MCLELAND & NAUGHTON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel R. Quintos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

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